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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

Forty-sixth session

UNHCR ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS: REPORT FOR 1994-1995 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMMES AND BUDGET FOR 1996

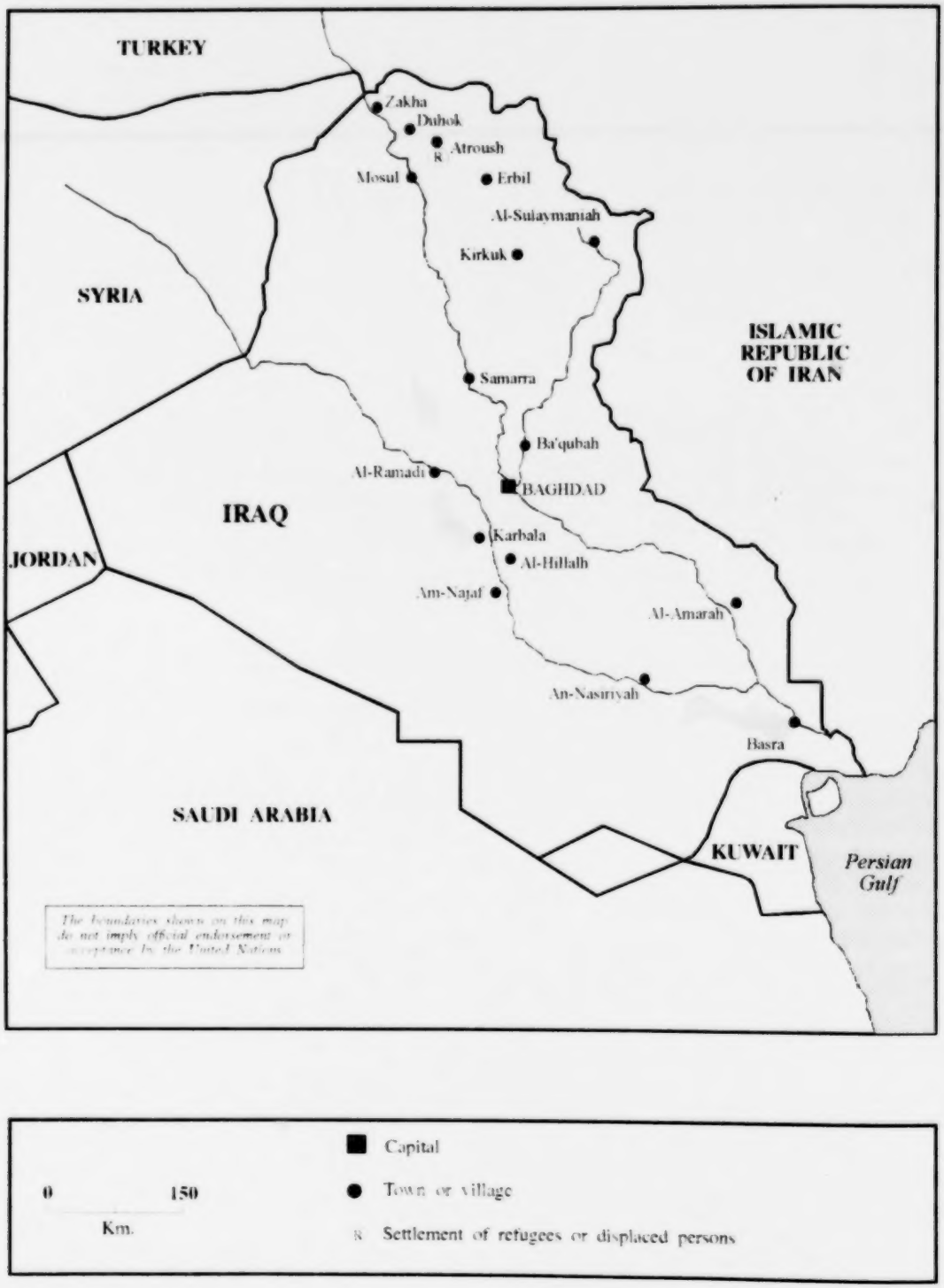
PART V. SOUTH WEST ASIA, NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Section 7 - Iraq

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.95-02240

IRAQ


TURKEY
Zakha
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Ba'qubah
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BAGHDAD
IRAQ
Karbala
Al-Hillalh
JORDAN
An-Najaf
Al-Amarah
An-Nasiriyah
Basra
SAUDI ARABIA
KUWAIT
Persian
Gulf
The boundaries shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Capital
Town or village
R Settlement of refugees or displaced persons
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Km.

V.7 IRAQ

1. Beneficiary population

1. At the end of 1994, Iraq hosted almost 120,000 refugees, including 44,300 Iranians, 62,500 Palestinians, 12,200 Turks of Kurdish origin and 620 Eritreans. Between April 1994 and March 1995, 7,102 females and 7,241 males arrived in Iraq. Of these, 56 per cent are children below the age of 14 years, of which 2,238 are under five.

2. Developments in 1994 and 1995

2. The ongoing embargo and continuing inflation of the Iraqi dinar weigh heavily upon the Iraqi population as well as upon the refugees, and pose a major challenge to UNHCR in the implementation of its programmes.

(a) Emergency assistance

3. Following the April 1994 arrival in Northern Iraq of several thousand Turkish nationals of Kurdish origin, UNHCR initiated an assistance programme funded through an allocation from the 1994 Emergency Fund. Food and relief items were provided in towns and villages a few kilometres away from the Turkish border where they were initially located. To better ensure the safety of refugees, UNHCR relocated them in Atroush camp in the Governorate of Dohuk, located about 60 kilometres south of Dohuk city and some 100 kilometres from the border. The onset of winter delayed shelter construction so winterized tents were provided instead. By January 1995, some 9,000 persons had moved into Atroush camp, exceeding its capacity. A second site was identified, and by April 1995, the new camp had been built and was housing about 13,700 of the 14,343 persons living in the area. Roads, sanitary and water facilities, health clinics and warehouses have been built but still require additional expansion and improvement. Pending the possibility of voluntary repatriation, a project has been established to provide assistance to newly-arrived refugees including food (to be provided by WFP), domestic items, shelter, basic health care, primary education, community services, water and sanitation.

(b) Repatriation of Iraqi Kurds

4. During 1994, assistance was provided to 1,662 families, comprising 8,776 persons of an estimated 10,000, who had returned from the Islamic Republic of Iran. The main items distributed were shelter materials, livestock, as well as agricultural and carpentry kits.

5. During 1995, a similar assistance programme will continue for 2,000 families. It is expected that savings will be made on equipment and consultant costs as well as on salaries for international non-governmental organization (NGO) staff. Under quick impact projects (QIPs), seeds and agricultural tools will be added to the assistance package.

(c) Care and maintenance

6. Assistance was provided to 45,000 beneficiaries whose basic food needs were met by WFP. In 1994, a supplementary food basket was provided by UNHCR that initially included only dates and high protein biscuits, but which was expanded to include milk for school children and cereal for babies with dietary problems. Because of WFP's difficulty in obtaining more that half of the required ration of wheat flour and lentils, UNHCR was obliged to make up the shortfall using its own resources.

7. Minor improvements were made to the road, water and sanitation systems in Altash Camp but further improvements are still required in 1995. Medicine and medical supplies were provided to the Altash health clinic, to the hospitals in Ramadi, Misan, Wasit as well as to the Palestinian and Iraqi Red Crescent Societies. In 1994, special counselling services were provided to 1,003 vulnerable cases, including handicapped and elderly persons, unaccompanied minors, women in need of protection, victims of torture and the sick. Women are encouraged to participate in teaching and counselling activities. Self-sufficiency courses are held for women in which they are taught sewing, dress-making, cooking and carpet weaving skills.

8. Some 5,300 refugee students received educational assistance in 1994. During 1995, their numbers increased to 5,880. Towards the end of 1994, vocational training was introduced for female and male adolescent refugees.

9. During 1995, refugees will be provided with documents to legalize their status. Information seminars are planned for Iraqi government officials on refugee issues and on the work of UNHCR.

(d) Voluntary repatriation

10. The voluntary repatriation programmes planned for 8,000 during 1994 yielded very limited results. Only 5 Iranians and 35 Africans were assisted. This low number is attributed to the reluctance of countries of origin to accept returnees. For 1995, funds were foreseen for the repatriation of 2,000 persons. It is feared however that only a small fraction of the 12,000 Iranians and the 150 refugees from various African countries, including Eritrea, Sudan and Somalia, will be able to return home.

(e) Resettlement

11. Because resettlement opportunities were very limited during 1994, the target to resettle 2,000 refugees was reduced to 400 and only 280 were resettled. Efforts are being made to improve the situation in 1995 and the current target is to resettle 1,000. They will be provided with transportation and a small resettlement grant. By 30 April 1995, 1,083 Iranian refugees whose cases had been submitted to resettlement countries were waiting for resettlement offers for 43 women-at-risk, 35 victims of torture, 65 security cases and 64 medical cases.

3. 1996 country programmes

(a) Objectives

12. With United Nations sanctions still in force, and Iraq experiencing dramatically deteriorating economic conditions, UNHCR assistance will continue to focus on the care and maintenance of a total of 56,610 refugees, including 38,560 Iranians, 17,500 Turkish Kurds, 200 Palestinians and 350 urban refugees of various origins. Wherever possible, durable solutions will be pursued to enable refugees to either repatriate or resettle.

(i) Turkish refugees of Kurdish origin

13. Some 17,500 refugees who were moved to Atroush Camp from the Qassrouk valley near the Turkish border will receive assistance consisting of supplementary food, household items, improved water supply systems and latrines, medicine, health education, shelter, community services, educational facilities and identification cards. Opportunities for their repatriation are not yet realistic.

(ii) Iranian refugees of Kurdish origin

14. While care and maintenance will continue to complement the assistance provided by the Iraqi Government to the 4,000 individuals living in Northern Iraq and to the 22,500 refugees in Altash Camp, UNHCR will continue to pursue its efforts to achieve the voluntary repatriation of these groups. Successful results will depend on the development of bilateral negotiations between the Governments of Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Iran. For those who are unable or unwilling to repatriate, efforts to resettlement them, will continue, although to date such efforts have met with little success. During their stay in Iraq, UNHCR will provide refugees with complementary food, social welfare services, community development activities, vocational training courses and infrastructure support at Altash camp.

(iii) Iranian refugees of Arab origin

15. This group, comprising some 12,000 Ahwazis, has access to agricultural land, freedom of movement and is allowed to work. However, because of the general economic situation in Iraq and in spite of their ethnic origin, their actual situation is precarious and they will continue to require UNHCR support to strengthen community-based services such as the water supply systems in the Wasit and Misan areas. When the situation permits, voluntary repatriation will be promoted.

(iv) Refugees from various African countries

16. The most desirable solution for these 350 refugees is voluntary repatriation and efforts will continue, on a case-by-case basis, to work towards this goal. Meanwhile, they will benefit from care and maintenance assistance as well as the payment of school fees and related expenses for those who need to complete their secondary education.

(b) Proposed budgets for 1996

(i) General Programmes

17. **Care and maintenance**: It is proposed to continue assistance programmes for Iranian refugees at Altash Camp while negotiations continue for their voluntary repatriation. The programme for a total of some 35,000 beneficiaries will continue with little change from previous years.

18. Assistance for an estimated 17,500 Turkish refugees of Kurdish origin covered under Special Programmes in 1995 is budgeted in 1996 under General Programmes. Should efforts towards finding durable solutions by creating conditions conducive to voluntary repatriation not yield the desired results, it will be necessary to continue assisting those remaining in Atroush Camp. Its infrastructure will need to be improved and maintained, which will result in about 50 per cent of the allocation being set aside for the shelter sector. Social counselling and educational assistance for some 2,500 school children will be conducted in addition to support in the health, water and sanitation sectors.

19. **Voluntary repatriation**: It is planned to assist up to 10,200 refugees to return voluntarily to their countries of origin. In anticipation of positive developments in negotiations between the Islamic Republic of Iran, the country of asylum and UNHCR regarding the voluntary repatriation of Iranian refugees, provisions have been made to assist some 10,000 Iranian refugees to return to their homeland.

20. **Resettlement**: In parallel with negotiations between the country of origin, the country of asylum and UNHCR regarding the repatriation of Iranian refugees in Altash Camp, efforts will continue towards finding resettlement opportunities for some 1,000 deserving cases who have no possibility of local integration in Iraq or of voluntary repatriation. The payment of fees for health screening will be covered.

(ii) Special Programmes

21. **Reintegration assistance for Iraqi returnees**: A project of assistance is planned for 3,000 refugee families comprising 15,000 persons. This assistance, as in previous years, will be part of a multi-sectoral approach jointly implemented in cooperation with regional authorities, other United Nations agencies and NGOs.

(c) Implementing partners

22. UNHCR will continue to cooperate with Shelter Now International (SNI) in the implementation of the assistance programme for the repatriation of Iraqi nationals of Kurdish origin returning from neighbouring countries. In Northern Iraq, where it is extremely difficult to find implementing partners, UNHCR has identified Response, Relief, Resettlement, Rehabilitation (4Rs) and the Swedish Health Organization (Qandil) as NGOs willing to assist in the implementation of UNHCR programmes.

(d) Programme Delivery and Administrative Costs

(i) 1994 expenditures (all sources of funds)

23. The 1994 expenditures were lower than the revised estimates, mainly because the post of Senior Programme Coordinator was not filled until August 1994. As in previous years, a UNHCR presence in Iraq continued to be maintained by the Office of the UNHCR Chief of Mission in Baghdad, which covered the northern areas as well. The UNHCR response in Northern Iraq required the deployment of missions by international staff, strengthened by local staff, to Erbil and Dohuk. Several such missions were undertaken. In addition, a UNHCR resettlement mission went to Baghdad to pre-screen potential resettlement cases. As a result, expenditures under travel were higher than expected. On the other hand, the low rate of repatriation of Iraqi Kurds from the Islamic Republic of Iran produced savings under most of the other budget chapters, particularly under general operating expenses.

(ii) Revised 1995 requirements (all sources of funds)

24. The revised 1995 requirements are higher than the initial estimates as a result of the new influx of Turkish Kurds in the north. This required the creation of three additional posts in Dohuk that took effect on 1 January 1995: a Field Officer, a Field Assistant and a Driver. Requirements under salaries, common staff costs and for travel on official business are accordingly considerably higher. Other increases include the purchase of replacement vehicles and additional telecommunication equipment, also in support of the programme for assistance to Turkish Kurds.

(iii) Initial 1996 requirements (all sources of funds)

25. The 1996 initial requirements are lower than the revised 1995 requirements. All previously approved time limited posts have been extended until 31 December 1996. No changes are therefore expected under salaries and common staff costs. Because of the uncertainty of the future situation of the Kurdish refugees in Northern Iraq, and taking into account current operational planning assumptions, no specific provision is made at this stage for 1996 programme delivery and administrative support costs in support of the assistance to Turkish Kurds in the north. As a result, the initial 1996 requirements are lower, mainly under travel, general operating expenses and permanent equipment, but these may have to be revised later according to developments.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN IRAQ

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1994	1995		1996	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)				
973.9	–	–	EMERGENCY FUND	–
294.0	350.3	350.3	CARE AND MAINTENANCE	997.6
82.3	50.0	50.0	VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	50.0
32.5	167.3	116.3	RESETTLEMENT	110.9
996.8	1,279.5	1,462.2	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	1,993.1
2,379.5	1,847.1	1,978.8	SUB–TOTAL OPERATIONS	3,151.6
270.3	548.1	342.4	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	328.5
2,649.8	2,395.2	2,321.2	TOTAL (1)	3,480.1
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)				
1,260.5	1,887.4	1,740.1	OTHER TRUST FUNDS	1,005.8
659.6	405.2	991.0	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	87.4
1,920.1	2,292.6	2,731.1	TOTAL (2)	1,093.2
4,569.9	4,687.8	5,052.3	GRAND TOTAL (1+2)	4,573.3

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HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

Forty-sixth session

UNHCR ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS: REPORT FOR 1994-1995 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMMES AND BUDGET FOR 1996

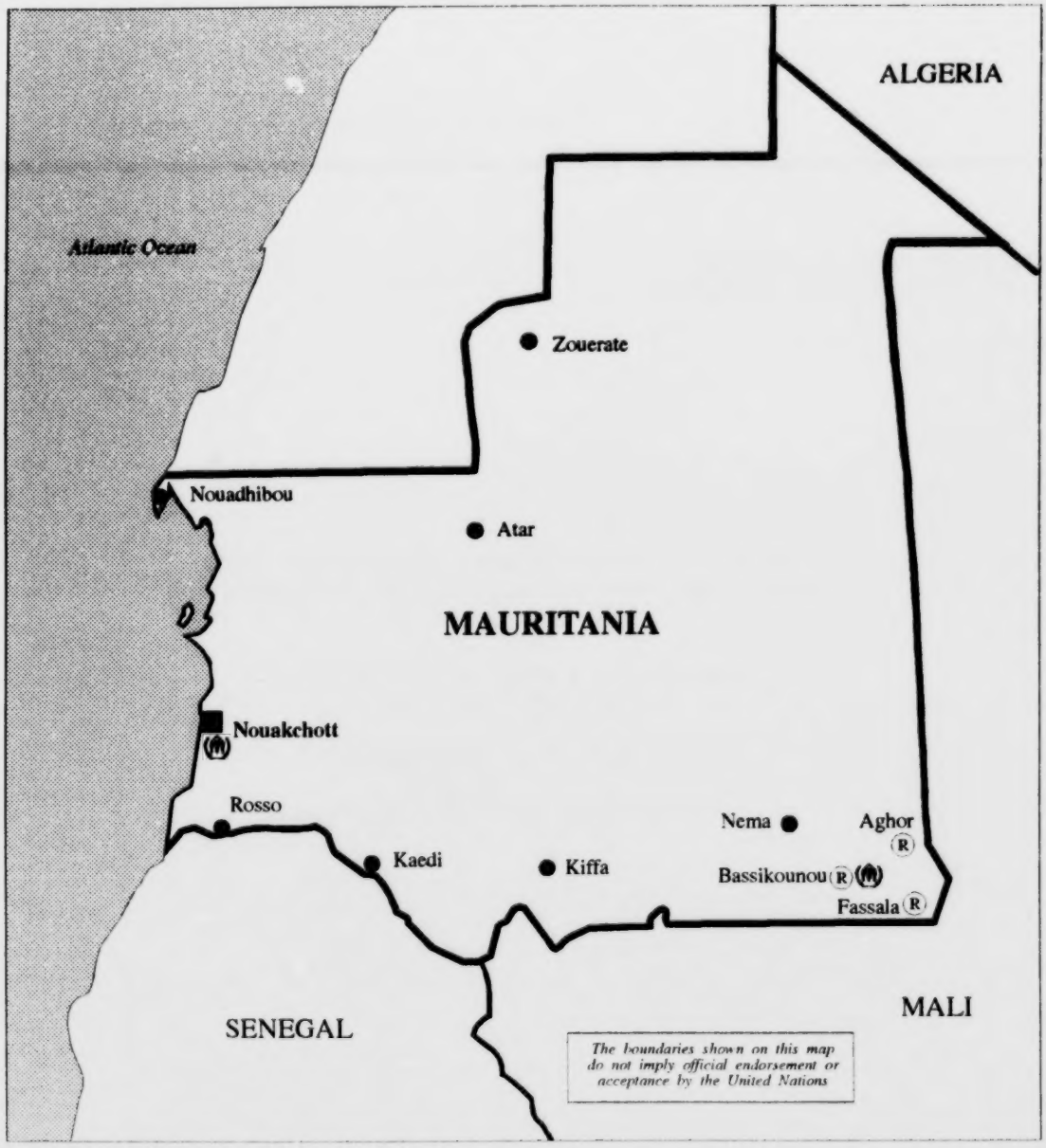
PART V. SOUTH WEST ASIA, NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Section 8 - Mauritania

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.95-02763

MAURITANIA


ALGERIA
Atlantic Ocean
Zouerate
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Atar
MAURITANIA
Nouakchott
Rosso
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Aghor
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MALI
SENEGAL
The boundaries shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations
0
200
Km.
Capital
UNHCR Office
Town or village
Settlement of refugees or displaced persons

V.8 MAURITANIA

1. Beneficiary population

1. At 31 December 1994, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania had granted asylum to 82,217 Malian refugees. These refugees, mainly of Tuareg or Moorish origin, are located in the extreme south-east of Mauritania, in the governorate of Hodh-El-Chargui, and more specifically in the camps of Bassikounou, Aghor and M'Berra. However, when in April 1995, with the help of the Mauritanian authorities and other partners, UNHCR carried out a census of all the refugee population, it counted 40,023 refugees divided among the camps of Bassikounou (14,863), Aghor (10,590) and M'Berra (14,570).

2. The difference between these two figures is due to several factors: the impossibility of organizing an accurate census at an earlier date; the fact that the new census only takes account of vulnerable persons; the spontaneous return of many refugees to Mali; and the departure of refugees to other regions of Mauritania. This refugee population is, in fact, mobile, since it essentially comprises nomads engaged in pastoral activities.

2. Developments in 1994 and 1995

3. The number of refugees registered in the last months of 1994 and the situation in northern Mali pointed to the arrival of further refugees in 1995. Plans for 1995 were therefore drawn up on the basis of a population of 90,000 persons requiring aid. The 1995 allocation for the care and maintenance programme for refugees from Mali was revised to take this increase into account.

4. In March 1995, at the request of the Mauritanian authorities, the refugee population of Fassala camp was moved to M'Berra, some 12 kilometres from Bassikounou camp.

5. The situation in northern Mali in 1994 would not have permitted the organization of voluntary repatriation of the Malian refugees in Mauritania. Early in 1995, the peace process in Mali got under way again, and it has once more become possible to envisage the prospect of organized voluntary repatriation. Some refugees have already returned spontaneously to northern Mali. A meeting of the Tripartite Repatriation Commission was held in Bamako from 14 to 16 May 1995, at which consideration was given to the possibility of organizing a pilot repatriation operation of a group of 1,175 refugees to northern Mali.

3. 1996 country programmes

(a) Objectives

Malian refugees

6. UNHCR will continue to promote the organized voluntary repatriation of Malian refugees. Pending repatriation, assistance activities should focus on the vulnerable groups living in the camps without adequate resources.

7. UNHCR will also encourage all measures enabling the refugees to become self-sufficient without jeopardizing eventual repatriation.

8. Particular attention will be paid to the Mauritanian populations coexisting with the refugees, often with a lower standard of living, and to the environment and the ecosystem, since the region's vegetation, of semi-desert type and thus very fragile, is particularly affected by the mass presence of refugees and their livestock.

9. UNHCR is prepared, if necessary, to help with the voluntary repatriation of Mauritanian refugees currently receiving assistance in Senegal and of Saharan refugees in transit in Mauritanian territory.

(b) Proposed budgets for 1996

General programmes

10. **Care and maintenance**: The new prospects for the return of Malian refugees and the reduction in the number of beneficiaries will have a considerable impact on the programme as a whole. A review of the 1996 programme is envisaged late in 1995. Multisectoral assistance will continue to be furnished to these beneficiaries in the form of food adapted to their traditional diet and to the climate, domestic articles which reduce environmental risks, the permanent renovation of shelters, and the maintenance of a health and sanitation system as closely adapted as possible to the extremely harsh climatic conditions.

11. Efforts will continue for the development of activities which encourage the refugees to be self-supporting. Support will be given to primary, secondary and higher education and vocational training in such a way as to attract and interest increasing numbers of young people, and the emphasis will be on preparing them for future employment. Given the nomadic tradition of the refugees and the fact that women are at the centre of activities, market-gardening, stock-raising and handcrafts will enable them to apply the techniques they have acquired on their return. They will also be trained particularly in social and community activities and in other income-generating activities.

12. In all the activities described above, an environmental protection component has been introduced, which has been strengthened for 1996. It ranges from the provision of fuel in order to reduce deforestation to the inclusion of environmental protection issues in school curricula.

13. The sectoral breakdown for the initial and revised 1995 and proposed 1996 allocations is as follows:

Sector	Initial 1995	Revised 1995	Initial 1996
Food	0	68 300	73 082
Transport	746 044	893 636	793 936
Domestic	677 625	1 058 900	1 058 900
Water	350 000	424 824	424 824
Sanitation	74 780	75 424	75 424
Health	625 887	726 588	822 778
Shelter	173 400	272 000	272 000
Community services	50 000	57 820	57 820
Education	294 300	240 125	240 090
Crop production	93 000	73 424	58 424
Livestock	122 951	122 951	0
Forestry	119 000	0	0
Income generation	50 000	165 400	100 400
Legal assistance	126 194	51 238	54 705
Agency op.support	452 570	1 073 670	1 008 666
Total	3 832 800	5 304 300	5 164 000

14. **Voluntary repatriation**: A pilot operation for the organized voluntary return of some 1,175 refugees is planned for the last quarter of 1995. Should the repatriation prospects be confirmed, an application for credit from the General Allocation for Voluntary Repatriation will be made for 1995 and 1996.

15. **Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) Special Programme**: A programme of scholarships (DAFI) for 14 university-level students has been set up directly by UNHCR with success. It will be necessary to continue these activities in the university year 1995/96, and they should be backed up not only by the placement of students abroad when their special subject is not taught in Mauritania, but also by a scholarship programme for secondary pupils, who at present receive no assistance.

(c) **Implementing partners**

16. The World Food Programme (WFP) will continue to provide Malian refugees with most basic food items. As from 1 July 1995, WFP will have taken over responsibility from UNHCR for warehouse management at Extended Delivery Points (EDP).

17. The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) plans to undertake ad hoc activities in the sphere of environmental protection using its own funds.

18. The Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development (ACORD) will in 1996 continue with a veterinary training programme for refugee stock-farmers which it began in 1995.

19. At the request of UNHCR, the Commission of the European Communities agreed in 1995 to subsidize the sale of gas stoves and cylinders in the camps so as to help combat deforestation.

20. The International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), which will be UNHCR's partner until 30 June 1995, may possibly be replaced by the Ministry of National Education for primary education and by the Ministry of Rural Development for market gardening activities. The vocational training and community services sectors should be transferred to World Vision, which plans to use its own funds for these purposes.

21. Alternative solutions will be sought to replace CARE-Australia, which is responsible for the water, sanitation and logistics sector, by a less expensive agency.

22. The medical sector is currently shared between Médecins sans Frontières (MSF), Médecins du monde (MDM), the Ministry of Health and the International Islamic Relief Organization (IIRO), which operates with its own funds. The drop in refugee numbers and the recent transfer of Fassala camp to M'Berra, near Bassikounou, no longer justify the number of agencies involved. Negotiations have been initiated with all the parties concerned to reduce the number of agencies operating in the health sector in 1996.

23. In 1995 an agreement was reached with the Governor of Néma on vaccination of the livestock belonging to refugees and to the indigenous population and on protection of the environment. If the objectives planned are attained in 1995, it may be envisaged to extend this agreement for the following year.

24. The registration of new Malian refugees in the camps and the management and distribution of food aid were entrusted in 1995 to the Food Security Commissionary (CSA). It is possible that registration will in future be entrusted by the Government of Mauritania to another body.

(d) **Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs**

25. The variations due to changes in the budget parameters are not included in the following analysis (see part I of the Overview of UNHCR's activities)

(i) 1994 expenditure (all sources of funds)

26. Expenditure for 1994 was less than the revised estimates, mainly because of the reduction in expenditure on salaries and staff costs. In addition to the changes in the budget parameters, provision has been made for a full year's budget for the Junior Professional Officer, whereas his contract expired in April 1994.

(ii) Revised 1995 requirements (all sources of funds)

27. The revised requirements for 1995 are higher than the initial estimates, with the creation of the post of Junior Professional Officer for protection. He is based at Nouakchott, but covers and supervises protection activities in the camps around Bassikounou.

(iii) **Initial 1996 requirements (all sources of funds)**

28. The initial requirements for 1996 are less than the revised requirements for 1995. Under salaries and staff costs, the post of Junior Professional Officer will only be extended until the end of May 1996. Since at the time of writing no changes are planned in the way operations are conducted in Mauritania, the requirements for items other than salaries and staff costs are the same as the revised requirements for 1995, except as regards the purchase of furniture and equipment. Most of the requirements under this sector were covered by the 1995 budget.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN MAURITANIA

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1994	1995		1996	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)				
3,634.1 a/	3,832.8	5,304.3	CARE AND MAINTENANCE	5,164.0
0.5 b/	–	–	VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	–
0.3 b/	–	–	RESETTLEMENT	–
700.3	701.4	914.9	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	760.1
4,335.2	**4,534.2**	**6,219.2**	**SUB-TOTAL OPERATIONS**	**5,924.1**
113.2	181.2	181.7	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	179.0
4,448.4	**4,715.4**	**6,400.9**	**TOTAL (1)**	**6,103.1**
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)				
			OTHER TRUST FUNDS	
586.0	–	21.3	Various assistance	21.3
1,483.8	–	–	Extra-budgetary food	–
			ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT	
60.6	60.0	74.0	Junior Professional Officer See Overview Tables (Part II)	27.0
2,130.4	**60.0**	**95.3**	**TOTAL (2)**	**48.3**
6,578.8	**4,775.4**	**6,496.2**	**GRAND TOTAL (1+2)**	**6,151.4**

a/ of which US$ 488 incurred against Other Programmes
b/ obligation incurred against Other Programmes

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NATIONS

A

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Forty-sixth session

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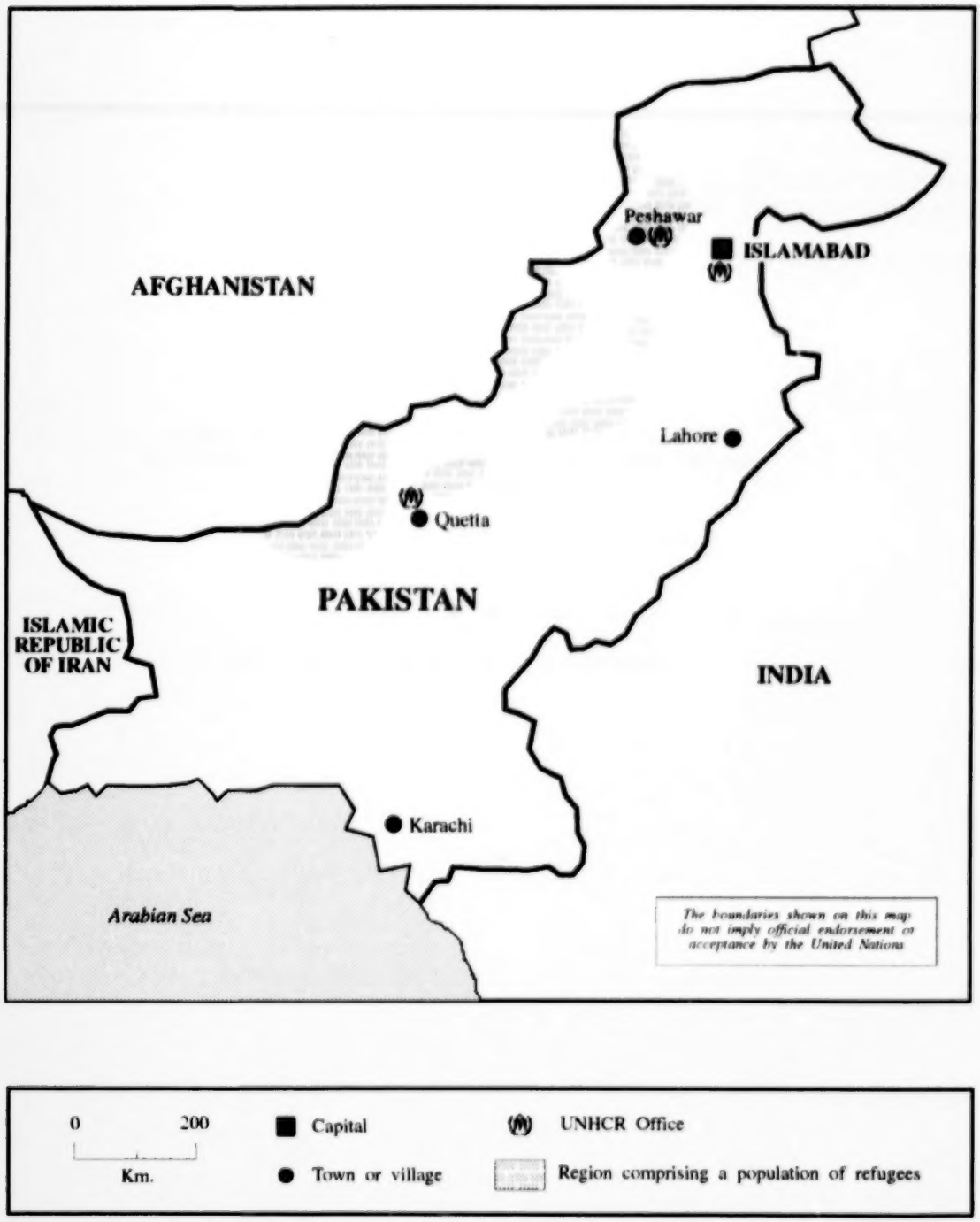
PART V - SOUTH WEST ASIA, NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Section 9 - Pakistan

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.95-02476

PAKISTAN


Peshawar
ISLAMABAD
AFGHANISTAN
Lahore
Quetta
PAKISTAN
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
INDIA
Karachi
Arabian Sea
The boundaries shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations
0
200
Km.
Capital
UNHCR Office
Town or village
Region comprising a population of refugees

V.9 PAKISTAN

1. Beneficiary population

1. Although there were new arrivals from the Kabul region during 1993 and 1994, the number of registered Afghan refugees dropped from 1,477,000 at the end of 1993 to 1,053,000 by the end of December 1994 because of the ongoing repatriation. This is a 68 per cent reduction since 1990 when 3,315,500 refugees were recorded. The majority are rural Pushtoons while the recent arrivals are urban refugees. The Afghan refugees reside throughout Pakistan but mostly in North West Frontier Province (NWFP), Balochistan and Punjab. In addition, there are 2,435 other refugees, mainly Iraqis, Somalis and Iranians, who reside in large urban centres.

2. Developments in 1994 and 1995

(a) General Programmes

(i) Afghan refugees

2. During 1994, as a result of the escalation of the conflict in Kabul, some 81,000 new refugees were observed entering Pakistan. Of this group, only the verified new arrivals were registered in the Nasirbagh refugee camp in Peshawar. The repatriation movement back to Afghanistan stalled, mainly because of insecurity, and only 32,000 refugees opted for encashment.

3. Efforts continued in 1994 and 1995 to rationalize and reorient the assistance programmes according to assessed and verified needs, and to target them more towards vulnerable groups. Wherever possible, services such as water systems, schools and health units were handed over to non-governmental organizations (NGOs), local administrations or to refugee committees. The delivery mechanism for the assistance programme is being streamlined and restructured, and has resulted in the discontinuation of a large number of redundant project staff posts. The staff have been separated and were compensated with retrenchment benefits.

4. A joint WFP/UNHCR mission in 1995 reaffirmed its 1994 recommendation of moving away from camp-based general food distribution to targeted food assistance to vulnerable groups. The current distribution system is scheduled for discontinuation by the end of September 1995.

5. In 1995, some 9,000 women will have benefited from targeted projects in tailoring, tree nursery maintenance, poultry and goat raising, and community health work. Primary education, which will have a lasting impact on the rebuilding of Afghanistan, will be supported by UNHCR during the hand-over process.

(ii) Non-Afghan refugees

6. In 1994, UNHCR offices in Islamabad and Quetta experienced serious difficulties with Iraqi Kurds who demonstrated and went on hunger-strike to press for resettlement. The Government of Pakistan tolerates the stay of non-Afghan refugees provided that UNHCR continues to assist them until a durable solution is

found. With regard to resettlement, UNHCR has maintained that only family reunification, medical evacuation and serious security cases can be considered. During the first quarter of 1995, 170 persons, mainly of Bosnian, Iranian, Iraqi and Somali origin, were accepted for resettlement.

7. The plan to promote skills training and to support small businesses while moving away from monthly cash assistance has been resisted by the refugees. Since such skills and experience are proven assets upon repatriation and resettlement, the plan will be promoted again in 1995.

(b) Special Programmes

(i) Afghan repatriation

8. This subject is covered under Part V/13 of this document, Regional Special Programmes.

(ii) UNHCR/World Bank income-generation project

9. The third and final phase of the World Bank/UNHCR Income Generation Project for refugee-affected areas is due to be closed at the end of 1995. A total of $ 26 million have been contributed to cover more than 70 activities using both refugee and local labour in forestry, flood protection, road repair and irrigation.

(iii) Education Account

10. In the 1994/1995 school year, 37 Afghan and 14 non-Afghan refugees were enrolled in Pakistani universities under a scholarship programme funded under the UNHCR Education Account.

3. 1996 country programmes

(a) Objectives

11. In 1996, UNHCR will attempt to complete the process, started four years earlier, of rationalizing the Afghan refugee assistance programme. Repatriation being the only viable durable solution for this group, UNHCR will not support activities that may unnecessarily delay this objective. Assistance to refugee communities, women and vulnerable groups to achieve self-reliance will be linked to repatriation and to reconstruction inside Afghanistan. UNHCR will try to work more closely with the provincial administration for the takeover of some of its activities. As for non-Afghan refugees, UNHCR will encourage them to participate in skills training and small business schemes, and discourage them from relying on monthly allowances.

(b) Proposed budgets for 1996

(i) General Programmes

12. **Afghan refugees**: The reduction in the care and maintenance budget reflects the continued rationalization and reorientation of the Afghan refugee programme for the remaining caseload. While most of the sectors would have been completed in the hand-over process, certain activities within the health and education sectors will continue to be funded by UNHCR. For those activities that have been handed over, a "safety net" and a monitoring mechanism will be established to ensure that services continue after the hand-over. In this regard, the nutritional status of refugees will be surveyed in 1996 after the phase-out of WFP food assistance at the end of September 1995. Vulnerable groups will be assisted through income-generation activities and through exemptions from charges for camp services such as school fees, water supply and health services. Local settlement is not being considered for this caseload; however, funds were initially allocated under a local settlement project to distinguish certain activities from current care and maintenance programmes. The reappropriation of funds from local settlement to care and maintenance would still be subject to the progress of repatriation as well as programme rationalization and subsequent discussions between the Government and UNHCR.

13. **Non-Afghan refugees**: In 1996, 2,500 non-Afghan refugees will be assisted. The SAVERA Counselling Service, under the supervision of UNHCR, will provide skills and language training, recreational facilities and general counselling services to this group. UNHCR will cover school fees and material support for some 800 children attending primary and secondary schools. Regarding resettlement, UNHCR will maintain its non-automatic and non-discriminatory policy by processing only family reunification, medical and security cases. Figures will be estimated based upon the number accepted for resettlement in 1995.

14. Sectoral requirements for the care and maintenance assistance to Afghans and non-Afghans are summarized below:

	Initial 1995	Revised 1995	Initial 1996
Transport	270,794	141,347	116,776
Domestic needs	1,056,222	1,208,011	1,252,442
Water	998,655	1,239,569	197,368
Sanitation	426,725	125,568	98,684
Health	2,378,971	1,959,667	707,356
Shelter	16,722	4,934	49,342
Community services	825,990	944,765	560,828
Education	2,733,358	2,598,846	1,236,763
Crop production	20,067	5,921	59,211
Livestock	20,067	5,921	59,211
Income generation	644,914	585,885	328,947
Legal assistance	45,223	22,631	67,039
Agency op. support	742,292	1,284,335	660,332
Total	10,180,700	10,127,400	5,394,300

(c) Implementing partners

15. **Afghan refugees**: The main implementing partner of UNHCR is the State and Frontier Regions Division of the Government (SAFRON), which implements through the Chief Commissioner for Afghan Refugees (CCAR) and through the provincial Commissioners for Afghan Refugees (CARs) in NWFP, Balochistan and Punjab. UNHCR will request that line Ministries and their Provincial Departments gradually take over activities as part of their responsibilities. There will still be a number of NGOs that will continue implementing UNHCR projects to complement activities undertaken by the Government and that will participate in the rationalization process of the current care and maintenance programme. WFP, which has been implementing the food assistance component of the programme, will discontinue its food distribution in camps to Afghan refugees as from the end of September 1995.

16. **Non-Afghan refugees**: The SAVERA Counselling Service will continue to provide professional assistance to the majority of non-Afghan refugees living in Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

(d) **Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs**

17. Variations due to changes in budget parameters are not discussed in the subsequent analysis (Overview of UNHCR Activities, Part I (A/AC.96/845) refers).

(i) 1994 expenditure (all sources of funds)

18. The 1994 expenditure was lower than revised estimates. Commensurate with the rationalization of the ongoing programme for the care and maintenance of Afghan refugees, UNHCR staff levels underwent constant review through a process of identifying redundant functions and consolidation of others. Reductions were also

realized under travel and general operating expenses because of the lower than expected repatriation of Afghans.

(ii) Revised 1995 requirements (all sources of funds)

19. The revised 1995 requirements are higher than initial estimates, mainly under travel, which is needed to monitor the closure of activities in refugee villages, linked to the planned rationalization of programme activities. In addition, an increase has been necessary to cover costs for joint United Nations security arrangements for the residences of staff members.

(iii) Initial 1996 requirements (all sources of funds)

20. The 1996 requirements are lower than revised 1995 requirements. It is expected that the staffing levels of the UNHCR Sub-Offices in Peshawar and Quetta will be reduced in 1996, once the level of activities has been determined and agreed. At present, a number of posts are limited until December 1995, and the need for their continuation into 1996 will have to be reviewed. Joint United Nations security arrangements for staff residences are expected to continue in 1996.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN PAKISTAN

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1994	1995		1996	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)				
			CARE AND MAINTENANCE	
12,599.1	8,519.5	8,085.4	Old Afghan caseload	3,344.7
1,834.9	1,660.5	2,042.0	Non Afghan caseload	2,049.6
1,877.4	–	–	New Afghan arrivals	–
3.4 a/	–	–	VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	–
2.2 a/	–	–	LOCAL SETTLEMENT	4,438.9 b/
17.4 a/	–	–	RESETTLEMENT	–
2,899.3	2,801.7	3,013.7	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	2,970.1
19,233.7	**12,981.7**	**13,141.1**	**SUB–TOTAL OPERATIONS**	**12,803.3**
417.5	521.8	494.3	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	389.9
19,651.2	**13,503.5**	**13,635.4**	**T O T A L (1)**	**13,193.2**
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)				
22.5	103.0	–	EDUCATION ACCOUNT	–
1,415.6	5,076.5	5,030.9	AFGHAN REPATRIATION PROGRAMME	5,030.9
576.5	565.0	674.8	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	297.3
279.1	236.2	281.4	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	229.2
			OTHER TRUST FUNDS	
62.0	33.2	49.5	Various assistance	–
86.0	20.0	–	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	–
			ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT	
137.4	95.0	123.0	Junior Professional Officer See Overview Tables (Part II)	123.0
2,579.1	**6,128.9**	**6,159.6**	**T O T A L (2)**	**5,680.4**
22,230.3	**19,632.4**	**19,795.0**	**GRAND TOTAL (1+2)**	**18,873.6**

a/ obligation incurred against Other Programmes
b/ please refer to paragraph 11 in the country text.